

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

I have been an independent producer for over twenty years having produced such movies as DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN, HOW TO MAKE AN AMERICAN QUILT, and the Emmy Award winning movie AND THE BAND PLAYED ON for HBO. My company is an example of the many independents who are struggling, the many independent voices who are being silenced as the ownership of entertainment companies is consolidated. As these colossal corporations work to minimize their risks they become increasingly less entrepreneurial and willing to take a chance on anything but sequels, franchise pictures and remakes. The risks of production are shifted to the independent and while some slip through the cracks, many of us are being buried. Look at the movies - one our biggest exports going out into the world. These stories are no longer relaying the American dream, but a nightmare.

Yes, I suffer personally, but I believe everyone who goes to the movies to transcend the troubles of their lives and imagine better ones are suffering as well.

Please allow independent American voices to flourish by halting the consolidation of media ownership.